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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: James et al.

Serial No.: Not yet assigned; based on PCT/GB00/00760

Filed: Herewith (8/31/01)

For: Culture of Mycobacteria

**Preliminary Amendment**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the application being filed herewith be amended as follows.

**Paragraph beginning on line 5, page 4**

A1 Accordingly, a first aspect of the invention provides a method of culture of mycobacteria, comprising culturing said mycobacteria, in batch fermenter culture or continuous culture, with agitation and in the presence of at least 0.1% (v/v) detergent. Sufficient detergent is present so that a substantially homogenous suspension of cells is maintained.

**Paragraph beginning on line 10, page 4**

A2 Preferably, the method of the invention comprises growing said mycobacteria in batch fermenter culture or continuous culture, at a temperature of 35°C +/- 10°C, at a dissolved oxygen tension of at least 1.0 percent, at a pH of 6.9 +/- 0.9 [and with agitation in the presence of sufficient detergent to maintain a substantially homogenous suspension of single cells].

**Paragraph beginning on line 4, page 8**

A3 The invention further provides, in a second aspect, a growth medium for culture of mycobacteria, comprising:

a carbon source;

a mitogen;